

## ABSTRACT

A method for protecting a span that connects a first node to a second node in a communication network includes the steps of creating a first protection virtual path connecting the first node with the second node through at least a third node using a routing-protocol and a signaling- protocol and monitoring a failure condition in the span. Upon detecting the failure condition in the span, the method also includes the steps of switching automatically to the first protection virtual path, and creating a new protection virtual path, using the routing-protocol and the signaling- protocol, for each span in the first protection virtual path, connecting two nodes at each end of the given span through at least another node.

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